

U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Washington, D.C. 20425

TO: Regional Programs Coordination Unit, Office of the Staff Director

FROM: Malee V. Craft, Director, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

SUBJECT: Report of Official South Dakota Advisory Committee

1. **Type of meeting:** Briefing

2. **Date:** Friday, March 24, 2017; 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (CDT)

3. **Location:** Community Room Aberdeen Public Safety Building, 114 – 2nd Avenue, SE.
Aberdeen, SD 57401

4. **SAC members present:**

Richard M. Braunstein, chair
Charles T. Abourezk
Melanie K. Bliss
Scott D. German
Arlouine Gay Kingman
Lloyd C. LaCroix
Mike J. Levsen

5. **SAC members absent:**

Marcia N. Bunger*
Renee B. Olson
Ira Taken Alive*

Excused

6. **Agency staff present:** Malee V. Craft, DFO and Regional Director, RMRO-USCCR and Evelyn Bohor, Support Staff, RMRO

7. **Other persons attending:**

Presenters: [agenda attached]

Dave McNeil, Chief, Aberdeen Police Department

Keith Theroux, Sergeant, Community Outreach Programs, Aberdeen Police Dept.

Brandon Sazue, Sr., Chairman, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe

Naomi Ludeman Smith, Professor and Dept. Chair, Arts & Sciences, Presentation College and Vice-Chair, Aberdeen Area Diversity Coalition

Lawrence Diggs, Author, Columnist, Public Speaker, Roslyn, SD

D.J. Mounga, Director, Student Life, Presentation College

Randolph Seiler, U.S. Attorney, District of South Dakota

Christopher White, States Attorney, Brown County

Alison J. Ramsdell, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Dist. of SD

Teresa Stallings, Associate Professor of Sociology, Northern State University

Sheila Richards, Long-Time Aberdeen Resident

Marcia Sylvester, Chair, Aberdeen Area Diversity Coalition

Peni Mounga, Director, TRIO Upward Bound, Northern State University

Media:

John Davis, *American News*

Crystal Olson

Kayleigh Schmidt, *KSFY*
Elisa Sand, *Aberdeen News*
Cory Allen Heidelberger, *Dakota Free Press*

Public:

Mary McDermott, Director, Aberdeen Head Start
Vaughn Vargas, Coordinator, Cultural Advisory Committee, Rapid City Police Dept.
Aleece Jung, Salvation Army
David Erickson, USD
Lou Whitmer, Diversity Coalition
Lynn Lander, City of Aberdeen
Leroy LaPlante, Avera Health
Sister Myra Remily, Presentation Sisters
Sister Kathleen Bierne, Presentation Sisters
Betty Sheldon, Prairie Artists Workshop
Norman Bliss, self
Lynn Lopes, self
Caryle Richards, self
Greg Smith, self
[others attended but did not sign in]

8. Summary of items discussed and actions taken.

Mr. Richard Braunstein, chair, welcomed everyone, called for introductions of SAC members, and read statement of purpose and rules for the briefing meeting.

Mr. Mike Levsen, SAC member and mayor of Aberdeen, provided information/statistics on the city. Mr. Charles Abourezk, SAC member, read a statement on the subtle effects of racism as background information for the meeting.

Thirteen persons (see attached agenda) made presentations before the South Dakota State Advisory Committee (SAC) to the US Commission on Civil Rights. The presenters represented local and state agencies. Specifically, federal, state, and local law enforcement, and community diversity organizations/higher education departments.

Approximately 45 persons were in attendance throughout the meeting day.

An open session was held and one person shared with the SAC observations and concerns with subtle racism in the state.

The briefing meeting was recorded by a court reporter and the record of the meeting will be available in approximately 30 days. The record for submission of written testimony is open until April 24, 2017.

Briefing adjourned at: 8:00 p.m. CDT.

Minutes prepared by: Malee V. Craft Date: March 29, 2017

Reviewed by Chair: Richard Braunstein Date: April 3, 2017



South Dakota Advisory Committee U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Community Room
Aberdeen Public Safety Building
114 2nd Avenue SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401

Friday, March 24, 2017
1:00 p.m.

The Subtle Effects of Racism in South Dakota

AGENDA

- **Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks**
 - Rich Braunstein, Chair, South Dakota Advisory Committee
- **Opening Statements**
 - Mike Levsen, Mayor of Aberdeen
 - Charles Abourezk, Member, South Dakota Advisory Committee
- **Briefing**

1:15 p.m. Local Law Enforcement Panel

- Dave McNeil, Chief, Aberdeen Police Department
- Keith Theroux, Sergeant, Community Outreach Programs, Aberdeen Police Dept.
- Brandon Sazue, Sr., Chairman, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe

2:00 p.m. Diversity Panel

- Naomi Ludeman Smith, Professor and Dept. Chair, Arts & Sciences, Presentation College and Vice-Chair, Aberdeen Area Diversity Coalition
- Lawrence Diggs, Author, Columnist, Public Speaker, Roslyn, SD
- D.J. Mouna, Director, Student Life, Presentation College

2:30 p.m. State Law Enforcement Panel

- Randolph Seiler, U.S. Attorney, District of South Dakota
- Christopher White, States Attorney, Brown County
- Alison J. Ramsdell, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Dist. of SD

3:00 p.m. Community Survey Findings on Use of Body-Worn Cameras

- Teresa Stallings, Associate Professor of Sociology, Northern State University

3:30 p.m. Community Panel

- Sheila Richards, Long-Time Aberdeen Resident
- Marcia Sylvester, Chair, Aberdeen Area Diversity Coalition
- Peni Mouna, Director, TRIO Upward Bound, Northern State University

4:10 p.m. Break: 20 minutes

4:30 p.m. Open Session – Public Testimony